

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15
H-01 L-03 VO-03 SCA-01 /075 W
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P 042154Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4225

CONFIDENTIAL PORT AU PRINCE 0774

EO 11652 XGDS-4
TAGS: SHUM, HA
SUBJECT: TWENTY-ONE POLITICAL PRISONERS RELEASED

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 0766

1. LATEST RELEASE OF 21 HAITIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS
(REFTEL) REFLECTS GOVERNMENT'S CONTINUING EFFORT TO REDUCE
ITS VULNERABILITY TO HUMAN RIGHTS CRITICISM AND TO DEMONSTRATE
RESPONSIVENESS TO CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S STRONGLY EXPRESSED
POSITION OF THIS ISSUE. REPRESENTATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS BY
THREE RECENT CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS (CONGRESSMEN RODINO AND
RANGEL, SENATOR BROOKE) HAVE UNQUESTIONABLY HELPED. WE HAVE
BEEN AUTHORITATIVELY TOLD THAT A NEW FACILITY IS UNDER
CONSTRUCTION FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND WE HAVE HAD REPORTS
THAT CONDITIONS HAVE RECENTLY IMPROVED IN OTHER PRISONS.

2. PROFESSOR JEAN-CLAUDE EXULIEN, WHOSE NAME LED OFF THE
AFP STORY, IS IN A DIFFERENT CATEGORY FROM THE OTHERS ON THE
LIST THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY. HE WAS ARRESTED
JUNE 29, 1976 AND RELEASED FEBRUARY 16, 1977. SEVERAL REASONS
HAVE BEEN ADVANCED -- INCLUDING ACCUSATION BY SOME PARENTS THAT
HE WAS TEACHING THEIR CHILDREN RADICAL POLITICAL THEORIES --
BUT EXULIEN HIMSELF HAS TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS NEVER
INTERROGATED THROUGHOUT HIS IMPRISONMENT AND WAS NEVER
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TOLD REASON FOR HIS DETENTION. HE WAS WELL-TREATED IN
PRISON BUT HIS EXPERIENCE HAS LED HIM TO CONCLUSION THAT HE
MUST PURSUE HIS CAREER OUTSIDE HAITI. HE PLANS TO EMIGRATE
TO UNITED STATES WHERE HIS WIFE AND TWO SMALL CHILDREN ALL
HAVE PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS. FULL REPORT ON EXULIEN
FOLLOWS SEPTEL.

3. OF THE REMAINING 20 LISTED, OUR FILES INDICATE THAT AT LEAST 14 WERE ARRESTED IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1969, FOLLOWING PEASANT DISTURBANCES IN THE LATREMBLAY REGION OF CROIX DES BOUQUETS (IN THE CUL DE SAC PLAIN NOT FAR FROM PORT AU PRINCE). OUR PRINCIPAL EVIDENCE OF THIS IS LIST OF FELLOW PRISONERS PROVIDED BY POLITICAL PRISON RELEASED IN LATE 1975 (SEE EMBASSY POLITICAL SECTION MEMORANDUM DATED JUNE 23, 1976). THESE ARE WILFRED ANDRE, DIEUDONNE AUGUSTE, DANIEL BORNO, ST. MARTIN CASIMIR, JOSEPH DUCLAIREUR (GIVEN AS DUCLERON IN MEMO), ROMULUS ELIACIN (GIVEN AS ELIALIN IN MEMO), DIEUDONNE EUGENE, KLEBERT JEAN, DOMINIQUE JOSEPH, SINCERE JOSEPH, PETUEL LOUIS-JEUNE, ALBERIC MONDESIR, MONTDESIR SEMAXAN (NAMES REVERSED IN MEMO), AND DUVIELLA ZAMOR. AT LEAST THREE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS -- ELIACIN, EUGENE AND DOMINIQUE JOSEPH -- HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INQUIRIES TO THE EMBASSY. WE ALSO NOTE THAT IN EARLY DECEMBER 1975 ASSISTANT SECRETARY MCCLOSKEY SENT A LETTER TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER REGARDING ELIACIN. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT MENTIONED IN LETTER, AMBASSADOR ISHAM GAVE THEN MINISTER OF INTERIOR PAUL BLANCHET COPIES OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE ON ELIACIN ON OCTOBER 27, 1975. BLANCHET, HOWEVER, DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF CASE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT REPORT THIS LATEST GOH RELEASE TO CONGRESSMAN FRASER, MAKING REFERENCE TO MCCLOSKEY LETTER. WE WILL INCLUDE THIS DEVELOPMENT IN OUR SUMMARY OF RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS BEING SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO STATE 46674. CONGRESSMEN RODINO AND RANGEL AND SENATOR BROOKE SHOULD ALSO BE INFORMED, PERHAPS BY SENDING CONFIDENTIAL

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THEM COPIES OF LETTER TO FRASER.
ISHAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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